Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The benefits of agricultural land include food and fiber production, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, psychological well-being of citizens, and enhanced economic and environmental benefits; and,

Whereas, Noxious weeds now infest 5,409,586 acres of South Dakota's pastures, cropland, and wild areas; and,

Whereas, Every acre infested with noxious weeds means lost revenue and additional cost to our already struggling agricultural producers; and,

Whereas, The spread of noxious weeds is one of the most serious of threats to South Dakota's rich biodiversity; and,

Whereas, The direct economic impact of this infestation is over $80 million. This does not include lower land values, losses from additional soil erosion, loss of soil nutrients, loss of bio-diversity, and loss of recreational opportunities; and,

Whereas, Failure to control noxious weeds would result in an economic loss of nearly $180 million; and,

Whereas, Support for noxious weed management has been variable and inadequate; and,

Whereas, Noxious weed control and budgets have decreased because of these restrictions and concerns; and,

Whereas, South Dakota cannot afford to ignore this growing threat; and,

Whereas, Without the support of everyone, we will lose the use and enjoyment of the lands of our state:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2005 as

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State